supply of plant protection enquipments, sprinkler sets, distribution of seeds, Integrated Pest Management, demonstration-cum-training, farmer's training etc. The scheme is being implemented on 75:25 cost sharing basis between Government of India and the State.

(c) and (d) During 1998-99, an amount of Rs. 85.85 lakh has been allocated to Orissa State comprising of Rs. 64.39 lakh as Central share and Rs. 21.26 lakh as State share. For the Ninth Plan, Orissa State has been included in the cotton development scheme.

Production of onions, potatoes, tomatoes and pulses

2035. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total production of onions, potatoes, tomatoes and pulses in the country during the past six months;

(b) whether Government have provided any direct help to the agriculturists to boost production of these items and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to boost production of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Monthwise details on the production of onion, potatoes and tomato are not estimated. However, the likely production of pulses during Kharif 1998-99 is estimated at 5.61 million tonnes.

(b) and (c) Government of India is implementing two Central Sector Schemes namely, (i) Production and Supply of Vegetable Seeds and (ii) Development of Root & Tuber Crops. These schemes povide the incentives to the farmers through supply of quality seeds of improved varieties of vegetable through minikits which includes onion, potato, tomato and other vegetable. In case of pulses, incentives to the farmers are being provided through State Governments on the use of certified seeds, rhyzobium culture, micro nutrients, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements, plant protection equipment, etc. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Pulses Development Project to motivate the farmers to adopt the improved production technology to increase the pulses production in the country.

Study on Problems of Small and Marginal Farmers

2036. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to conduct an in-depth study of the problems of small and marginal farmers and agriculture labour;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to announce safety net and social security measures for their benefit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) It has been proposed to set up a High Powered Committee to look into the real financial condition of farmers and to recommend ways to improve their financial condition.

Making the Crop Insurance Compulsory

2037. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make it compulsory for farmers to take insurance on their crops;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government insists on linking agricultural loans to agricultural insurance; and

(c) if so, whether the costs of compulsory insurance have been estimated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) It is proposed to introduce a Modified Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (MCCIS) from Kharif 1999 season onwards. Some of the features proposed to be included in MCCIS are:

— Both loanee and non-loanee fanners will be covered. Participation of loanee farmers is proposed to be made compulsory and voluntary for non-loanee farmers.